

October 24

NCLB – Title I Audits

A school auditor has alerted us to a possible problem situation in districts with Title I schoolwide projects. In February, 2008, the U. S. Department of Education issued new guidance regarding time and effort logs (time certification). The new guidance states that even employees that work solely on a single cost objective must do semi-annual certifications. This is a change from NDE's long held guidance that employee schedules would suffice for certification for such employees. The new guidance was included on page 35 of the April 2008 State and Federal Grant Management Requirements and Guidance available on the NDE homepage (A-Z Topic List – Grants Management Guidance at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/gms2/index.htm>)

State of the Schools Report

Districts that submitted Requests to Change Data, Appeals and Explanations should have received an approval letter. Please contact Marilyn Peterson if you did not receive a letter and should have received one. Districts with approval letters can resubmit 2007-08 data during the November 3 – 12 window.

The State of the Schools Report is still open for district only review. The report card is being updated if changes are made in the CDC. It will not be updated for changes in data until after the November 3-12 window.

NSSRS – 2008-09

Thanks to all your efforts and efforts of the NDE staff and, especially the HELPDESK staff, the submission of the Fall 2008-09 data is going fairly smoothly. The NSSRS and CDC data collection window for the Fall 2008-09 submissions ends on October 31. All data must be submitted **and errors resolved** by then. Please do not wait until the last minute!

Graduation Rates

On November 1, the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) will release new regulations that include standardizing the formula for calculating graduation rates and a new requirement for reporting graduation rate data and determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) by groups (Race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status or low-income, special education and English Language Learners). For the 2007-08 AYP calculations, USDE has already required Nebraska to collect and use school or building level graduation rates. Not only will there be changes in reporting, graduation rates are getting a lot of public attention lately. Ed Trust released a report on graduation rates and State AYP goals on Thursday that will likely be cited by the media.

What can you do?

Accurate reporting:

The 2007-08 data in the NSSRS is the basis of future calculations of graduation rates – be sure that this data is accurate!

Accurate tracking:

Districts need to be relentless in tracking students that leave the district to ensure that the correct exit codes are entered into the NSSRS. Four years down the road is too late to discover that the district does not know whether a student who left is a transfer or a dropout!

NOTE: Districts will report completer data during the November 3- 12 window. Please be prepared to submit completer data (drop-outs, completers, etc.) at this time.

What are we doing?

Instructions for reporting completers/drop-outs are being revised and will be posted on the NDE and NSSRS homepages **next week**. We are preparing a file of completer data submitted to date and will include it with next week's NDE Bulletin.

NDE staff are contacting districts that have reported 12th graders in "schools" that should be reported as programs. (Every entity reporting 12th graders is considered a high school for Federal Reporting.) Districts report students enrolled in programs at the building (attendance area) where they reside or are assigned by the district. Contact Pam Tagart or Kathy Heskett if you need to change the designation of an entity from a school to a program.

Upcoming Due Dates:

STAR Grants

All reimbursement requests and summative reports must be submitted to John Moon in the assessment office by November 15, 2008. STAR grant funds obligated by September 30 must be spent before November 15th. No new obligations are allowed after September 30.

NCLB Consolidated Application

The 2008-09 NCLB Consolidated Application is due November 7, 2008.

NSSRS

November 3-12 is the window for resubmission of 2007-08 data. If needing to update Staff Assignment data, please contact Kathy Heskett (402-471-4738) for assistance.